FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 APRIL 1985

Lebanon

Fighting broke out along Beirut's contact lines 30 April, although the Phalangist Lebanese Forces spokesman had earlier called for a "complete cease-fire" within 48 hours, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. As for the situation in Jazzin, Minister of State for Southern Lebanon and Reconstruction Affairs Nabih Birri stated that he and Minister Walid Junblatt have agreed that the Amal movement and the Progressive Socialist Party will not attack Jazzin or displace its inhabitants, Beirut radio reported. Birri emphasized that the recent events around Sidon were not directed against the Christians, but against "those who deal with Israel." Meanwhile, the commander of the army of southern Lebanon (ASL) announced that the defense of Jazzin remains the ASL's responsibility, Voice of Lebanon noted. As for Israel's attitude toward the Christian's situation, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reaffirmed in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio that Israel has ended its involvement in domestic Lebanese problems and will only assist the Christians or others in defense of the security zone. Regarding the Tyre area, Beirut radio confirmed that the Lebanese Army and the Amal movement entered the areas evacuated by the IDF, while Jerusalem radio disclosed that the Amal movement apprehended 30 suspected Israeli collaborators in Tyre.

Israel

A commission of inquiry into the Lebanon war "would not facilitate the maintenance of the unity government" and would cause "a most grave internal situation in the country," Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared in a Jerusalem radio interview. Shamir also told Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip that Israel has reached the limits of border concessions to its neighbors, asserting that no Jewish settlement will ever again be dismantled or abandoned, the radio reported.

Sudan

The authorities will meet the "popular demand" for the trial of former President Ja'far Numayri although it is not considered a "first priority issue," Defense Minister 'Uthman 'Abdallah Muhammad stated in an Abu Dhabi *AL-ITTIHAD* interview. Meanwhile the clandestine Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) radio carried a further warning of SPLA's intention to continue its struggle northward toward Khartoum. A 25 April *PRAVDA report on Sudan referred to problems in the south* without mentioning Garang or his movement.

Maghreb Affairs

The Tunisian foreign minister began a visit to Libya, expressing the hope that talks with his Libyan counterpart will consolidate bilateral relations and overcome "negative points," TAP reported. In Algeria, the State Security Court sentenced 70 Muslim fundamentalists to various prison terms, according to AFP.

DRA-Pakistan

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry lodged "strong" protests with the Afghan charge d'affaires over Afghan airspace violations on 25, 26, and 29 April, according to Karachi radio.

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Karmal Presents Promotions to Military Officers

LD271254 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Yesterday afternoon at the Gol Khana Palace Headquarters of the Revolutionary Council, Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, presented orders of promotion to several high-ranking officers of the Armed Forces. They were being promoted to the ranks of major general-guardian [toran jenral paswal] and brigadier general-deputy guardian [brig jenral-malpaswal] to mark the 7th anniversary of the April Revolution.

Congratulating those officers who were promoted to the rank of general, Babrak Karmal spoke about the responsibility of the Armed Forces for the defence of freedom, national independence, territorial integrity, and defense of the country's national authority as well as defense of the gains of the April Revolution. He wished them success in the duties allotted to them.

Major General Nazar Muhammad, DRA minister of defense, assured Babrak Karmal on behalf of the Armed Forces that the DRA Armed Forces under the leadership of the PDPA, led by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the DRA Revolutionary Council and supreme commander of the DRA Armed Forces, will not spare any effort or sacrifice for the accomplishment of their major duties.

The Secretariat of the Revolutionary Council Presidium reported that on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the April Revolution, the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium has approved the promotion of the following officers in recognition of the major and vital role played by the Armed Forces in defense of the gains of the April Revolution, national independence, territorial integrity, consolidation of [words indistinct] and strengthening of the country's defenses.

A. Those officers promoted from brigadier general-deputy guardian to major general-guardian were:

Nazar Muhammad [minister of defense], son of Aqa Muhammad;
Sayyed Muhammad Golabzoy [minister of interior], son of Gulab Shah;
Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi [Revolutionary Council member], son of Ghulam Haydar;
Muhammad Yasin Sadeqi [PDPA Central Committee Secretariat member], son of Muhammad Sadeq;
Shahnawaz Tanay [PDPA Central Committee Secretariat member], son of Abdul Halim;
Husamuddin [Revolutionary Council member], son of Shahabuddin;
Ghulam Faruq Yaqubi [minister without portfolio], son of Khan Muhammad;
Nurol Haq 'Alami, son of Abdul Azim;
Muhammad Afzalluddin [candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee], son of Muhammad Sarwar.

B. Those officers promoted from colonel-peace officer [samonwal] brigadier general-deputy guardian were:

Abdul Haq 'Alami, son of Abdul Azim;
Ahmaduddin, son of Zaynul'abedin;
Basmillah, son of Abdul Ahmad;
Jamal Khan, son of Taleqan;
Dayah Khan, son of Shah Wali;
Dawud Shah, son of Jowhar Shah;
Abdul Jalal Razmandah, son of Abdul Jabbar;
Abdul Fattah, son of Abdul Hadi;
Gholam Hazrat, son Abdul Razzaq;
Gul Muhammad, son of Babrak;
Muhammad Asef, son of Merajan;
Muhammad Hasan, son of Shah Murad;
Muhammad Mohsen Helali, son of Abdul Wahid;
Muhammad Nader, son of Masjedi;
Muhammad Nabi Shoredah, son of Abdul Samad;
Muhammad Nay, son of Abdul Qoddus;
Mer 'Azimuddin, son of Mer Jalaluddin;
Najibullah, son of Abdul Qoddus;
Walayat Khan, son of (Abi Khan).

The source added that the decree concerning the promotion of these officers is being sent to their respective authorities.

Ministry of Defense Announces Routine Discharges

LD291817 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Text] The announcement of the DRA Ministry of Defense concerning the routine discharge and unit NCO's who have completed their term in the Armed Forces up to 3 May of the current year:

1. Those unit NCO's, conscripts and reserved troops, whose term of service in the Armed Forces will be completed up to 3 May, 1985, will be released from the ranks of the DRA Armed Forces as between the months of May and July and should be registered in their terms of service in the reserves according to law:

A: Troops and unit NCO's who, by 3 May, have served in combat units for 3 years or more;

B: Troops and unit NCO's who are serving in logistic, guard and maintenance units under the orders of the center in accordance with the approved list of the DRA Council of Ministers and have completed 4 years and more.

2. The discharge of troops and unit NCO's by the commander of large units and establishments in consideration of the observation of combat capability and the date of entry, should be carried out in such a way that 50 percent should be released in the 1st month of discharge as from 3 May to 3 June and the second 50 percent in the 2d month of discharge as from 3 June to 4 July.

3. In relation to the discharge, DRA male citizens who are 18 years of age, and reserved conscripts who are under the age of 40 and are not exempted from the military service, should be conscripted and called up for military service.

Agricultural Contracts Signed With Soviet Union

LD292039 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Text] A contract for a grant of 5,000 tons of improved wheat seed for sowing was concluded between the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform and the Soviet Union's Vostokintorg.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform said that the sowing seed is worth more than R968,000 and is suitable for Afghan weather conditions. It is due to be distributed to the country's farmers during the current year's fall cultivation campaign to increase agricultural produce and help the farmers.

According to another report, a contract to grant 2,488 tons of insecticides; 10 tractors; 10 trucks; and 10 spray units was concluded today between the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform and the Economic Consulate of the Soviet Union in Kabul.

'Severe Clashes' Reported Between 2 Rebel Bands

LD300558 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Text] Kabul, April 29, BAKHTAR — Severe clashes took place between two Afghan counter-revolutionary bands in Pakistan recently, report the international news media. The clashes caused death and injury of a number of counter-revolutionaries and damaged a store house of their bullets and explosives. Intensification of the internal strife and competition between Jami'at-e Eslami and other rival bands over the distribution of the sums provided to them by their imperialist patrons gave new impetus to these incidents.

Commentator on Decisions Adopted at Loya Jirga

LD300554 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Text] Kabul, April 29, BAKHTAR — A BAKHTAR political observer writes:

The Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) of the represenatives held in Kabul at the end of April proved to the world once again that the people of the country following the customs of their forefathers, have taken vital decisions aimed at the prosperity of the Afghans.

In the Loya Jirga it was stressed that the policies of the party and state of the DRA are in the interest of the people of the DRA aimed at abolition of backwardness and promoting the living standard of the masses.

The foreign policy of the country, it was stated, is based on defending international peace and tranquillity, pursuing peaceful co-existence, solidarity with the national and democratic liberating and non-alignment movements as well as further development and consolidation of fraternal and unshakable relations with the USSR and other socialist countries.

The Grand Assembly also approved the proposals of the DRA dated May 14 and August 24, 1981, aimed at political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

The gathering distinguished that the actual enemies of Afghanistan are the U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism, Pakistan and Iran.

The fraternal assistance of the USSR was regarded by the jirga as a necessary step for repelling the brazen aggressions of imperialism inside the country.

Meanwhile, the Loya Jirga invited the deceived Afghans to return to their homeland and resume their normal life.

The Grand Assembly informed Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the UN, regarding its historical resolutions and asked him to press the imperialist forces, led by U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism, militarists of Pakistan and the reaction of Iran to stop the undeclared war against Afghanistan.

Minister Calls for Negotiated Sri Lanka Solution

BK291629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Excerpts] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, told the Lok Sabha today that the situation in Sri Lanka continues to be tense.

Mr Khan said India has been given to understand that President Jayewardene will take some positive measures toward a political solution. The minister expressed the hope that these measures will be implemented without any delay. He said it is essential that a political dialogue with all concerned is resumed early in Sri Lanka. The present disturbed state in Sri Lanka does not appear conducive to any meaningful effort for negotiations. He expressed the hope that all efforts will be made to defuse the situation and tension.

Mr Khan felt that the initiative rests with the Sri Lanka Government and hoped that they will show the necessary political will and vision in this direction. The minister told the house that the number of refugees from Sri Lanka has gone up to about a lakh. While we have done whatever is possible to provide succor to them, the influx imposes a heavy social and economic strain on us. The livelihood of our fishermen have been affected, and they have been harassed and attacked. We have to strengthen our surveillance and take other protective measures. Mr Khan said, in this complex and grave situation our primary objective is to ensure that Indian citizens are not under threat and our interests are protected. At the same time, we want to see a return to normalcy and stability in Sri Lanka, which will permit the refugees to return in safety and dignity. He expressed the hope that a peaceful and negotiated settlement will be found to the problem faced by Tamils in Sri Lanka without further delay. Mr Khan made it clear that India does not believe in separatism, but at the same time we do not believe that repressive measures can help in finding a solution to ethnic issue in Sri Lanka. He said a negotiated political settlement acceptable to all concerned will have to be found.

During the discussion on the minister's statement, members from both sides of the house urged the government to mobilize world opinion to stop the killings of Tamils in Sri Lanka. They said India should launch a diplomatic campaign to inform the world about the untold miseries of Tamils.

Members also wanted to take the matter at the United Nations. Though there was unanimity among various sections of the house on the Sri Lankan problem, opposition members criticized the government for not bringing forward a concrete proposal in this regard. Most of the members felt that the solution cannot be found militarily. It should be a negotiated settlement. But before that, violence must end on the island.

Intiating the discussion, Mr P. Salvendran, All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, said the recent steps taken up by the government — including the setting up of a special advisory group — though welcomed, are not sufficient. The government will have to think of other steps to stop the genocide.

Further on Tamil Problem

BK300335 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Text] India has urged Sri Lanka to take immediate steps to find a political solution to the Tamil problem in that country. Replying to the 4 and 1/2-hour-long discussion on the situation in Sri Lanka in the Lok Sabha yesterday, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, expressed the hope that the Sri Lankan authorities and others concerned will come to the negotiating table and arrive at a settlement acceptable to all. Conditions must be created for the large number of refugees to return from India to their homeland with dignity, honor, and safety. He made it clear that the solution cannot be found through military means.

Sharing the concern of the members, particularly from Tamil Nadu, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan said that the Tamil issue is a national problem and the prime minister is taking all possible steps to find a solution to the issue. Mr Khan refuted as totally baseless the Sri Lankan allegation against India of encouraging terrorism in that country. He also made it clear that India will not like foreign agencies to operate in Sri Lanka. This has been conveyed to the Sri Lankan Government.

The minister regretted that Voice of America has been allowed to set up a broadcasting station in Sri Lanka. India wants the region to be free from foreign interference and intrusion.

Referring to recent clashes between Tamils and Muslims in some parts of Sri Lanka, Mr Khan suspected a hidden hand behind them. He appealed to the Muslim community in Sri Lanka to see through the game of forces trying to divide and rule. Mr Khan assured the house that the government will continue to pursue the issue of atrocities on Tamils in Sri Lanka at the Human Rights Commission, which has already taken up the matter. He said the special advisory group, set up by the prime minister, has started functioning.

2,000 Arrested in Demonstrations on Sri Lanka

BK291300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Text] In Madras, about 2,000 DMK volunteers were taken into custody today when they attempted to demonstrate in front of central government offices defying the city police regulatory orders. The party organized the demonstration to demand stronger action by the center to solve the Sri Lanka ethnic problem at the earliest.

Curfews Relaxed as Gujarat Situation Improves

BK291617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Text] Stray incidents of violence have been reported from some parts of Gujarat. An unidentified body with stab injuries was found today from the curfew-bound area of Baroda. The situation in the city, however, remained peaceful during the relaxation of curfew for 2 and 1/2 hours in the evening.

In Surat, the authorities have decided to relax the curfew for 5 hours from 0600 tomorrow in all the areas under indefinite curfew, excepting the area under Varacha Road police station. The situation in the Kadi town of Mehsana District, which is under indefinite curfew, is also peaceful. However, no curfew relaxation has been announced for tomorrow in the town. Peace prevailed in Visnagar town during the curfew relaxation today. Following improvement in the situation, curfew-relaxation period has been further increased for tomorrow from 0500 to 2300. In Anand town of Khera District, only night curfew will remain in force.

In Ahmedabad, absolute normalcy prevailed in all the curfew-free areas in the city today. In the curfew-bound areas also, the situation was quite peaceful, barring a few minor incidents. The authorities have decided to relax curfew in the entire city tomorrow for 10 hours from 0800.

Ahmedabad Negotiations Urged

BK300357 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Text] The situation in Gujarat has further improved. In Ahmedabad, no untoward incident was reported last night. Following the improvement in the situation, curfew has been relaxed in all curfew-bound areas in the city today from 0800 [0230 GMT] in the morning till 1800 in the evening. Baroda and Surat were also peaceful, barring two minor incidents. In Baroda, one person was killed in a stabbing incident and in Surat, two jeeps were set on fire. Curfew has been relaxed today for 5 hours in the morning in Surat, while day curfew has been lifted in Viramgam, Anand, and Visnagar towns. Indefinite curfew continues in Kadi town in Mehsana District.

A group of leading citizens of Ahmedabad headed by the well-known litterateur, Dr Uma Shankar Joshi, has urged the Gujarat governor, Mr B.K. Nehru, to take urgent and effective steps to restore peace and normalcy in the state. The All-Gujarat Parents Association, which is spearheading the antireservation agitation, has again expressed its readiness to start negotiations on the reservation issue after restoration of normalcy.

Meanwhile, the relief operations in the six camps in Ahmedabad city, where more than 12,000 people are taking shelter, have gained momentum.

The Supreme Court has stayed till further orders the Gujarat High Court's direction constituting a committee to inquire into alleged police excesses in Ahmedabad. The matter will come up for further hearing tomorrow. In its appeal yesterday, the Gujarat government said that the ordering of the inquiry has interfered with the functions of the executive.

Akali Dal Sets Conditions To Resume Dialogue

BK291559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Text] The Akali Dal chief, Mr Harchand Singh Longowal, had an hour-long meeting today with some opposition leaders in New Delhi. The Janata Party leader, Mr Madhu Dandavate, told newsmen after the meeting that Mr Longowal laid down four main conditions whose acceptance might create an atmosphere for the settlement of the Punjab problem. These include scrapping of special courts [in Punjab], leniency in dealing with Army deserters [following Indian Army action in Golden Temple in June 1984], release of Sikh students against whom there are no cases of violence, and an inquiry into all the violent incidents of November [following Mrs Gandhi's assassination] as in the case of Delhi. Mr Dandavate said the opposition will soon take up these conditions to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to help resume a dialogue between the government and the Akali Dal. The opposition leaders also urged the Akali Dal chief to desist from describing the assassins of Mrs Indira Gandhi as martyrs. They told him that in a democracy political differences cannot be solved through assassination or terrorism.

Former union agriculture minister, Mr S.S. Barnala, who accompanied Mr Longowal, promised to take note of their suggestion. According to Mr Dandavate, Mr Barnala assured the opposition leaders that the Akali Dal appreciates their view and will not henceforth describe the assassins as martyrs.

The opposition parties represented at the meeting were the Janata, the Telugu Desam, Congress-S, Congress-J and the Janwadi Party.

Protocol Sets Target for 1985 Trade With USSR

BK300421 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Text] The target for Indo-Soviet trade for this year has been fixed at 4,600 crore rupees. This is 65 percent more than last year's trade turnover between the two countries. A protocol to this effect was signed in Moscow yesterday by the Indian and Soviet cochairmen of the joint commission, Mr S.B. Chavan, and Mr Ivan Arkhipov. The target of Indian exports to the Soviet Union has been fixed at 2,500 crore rupees.

Analyst Cited on Pakistani Nuclear Capability

BK271045 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Text] The director of the Institute of Defense Studies and Analysis, Mr P. Subramaniam, today said that Pakistan, according to all available indications, is pressing on with its quest for nuclear capability. While it is difficult to say at this stage whether or not it has any untested uranium bombs, under the circumstances the rational assessment will be to assume that Pakistan has the bomb. Mr Subramaniam was delivering the keynote address at a symposium in New Delhi on the problems of international security with special reference to Southeast Asia and South Asia. He said superpower rivalry has led to direct and indirect interventions by the developed world in developing countries.

The seminar was held to mark the silver jubilee of the National Defense College. It was attended by the chiefs of the air staff and naval staff and senior officers of defense forces from India and

abroad. Many civilian officers were also present. The president, the prime minister, and the defense minister have sent messages of greetings on completion of 25 years of the college.

AFP: 'Major Defense Deal' Planned With Italy

HK280812 Hong Kong AFP in English 0739 GMT 28 Apr 85

[Text] New Delhi, April 28 (AFP) — India is to sign a major defence deal with Italy Wednesday, a newspaper said and informed sources said a U.S. defence official would come here the same day to talk about a possible U.S.-Indian arms deal.

THE TIMES OF INDIA, quoting highly reliable sources today said a deal was to be signed with Italy to bring in advanced electronic warfare technology.

The Defence Ministry spokesman however denied the report, which said the deal would bring India an electronic warfare system called electronic counter-counter-measure (ECCM).

The two state-owned Italian concerns, Selenia and Electronica, which are developing the ECCM, have claimed that the system can destroy missiles coming from any direction.

The agreement, "when signed will give Italy an important position in the country's (India's) defence preparedness programme," the newspaper's chief correspondent said. Delhi's main arms supplier has traditionally been Moscow. India and Italy are to share the ECCM's development costs, the report said, adding that a research centre would be set up in Karnataka, southern India with another in Italy.

Meanwhile, U.S. defence undersecretary Fred Ikle is also to arrive here Wednesday to explore the possibility of arms deal between India and the United States, informed sources said. Indian and U.S. officials were not available for comment on the report. Delhi and Washington have signed a memorandum of understanding, boosting the scope of transfer of high technology to India from the United States.

25, 26 April Afghan Airspace Violations Protested

BK291602 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Txt] Four Afghan aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace on last Thursday and intruded nearly 3 km inside in the Arandu region of Chitral. They dropped two bombs inside Pakistani territory nearly 2 km southeast of Arandu. However, no report of any loss of life or property has been received.

The following day, four Afghan aircraft again violated Pakistan's airspace and flew up to 3 km inside in the Arandu region of Chitral. They fired 20 rockets about 2 km northeast of Arandu in Pakistani territory. These aircraft dropped one bomb and fired several rockets in the Samran region 6 km northeast of Arandu in which one person was killed and another seriously injured. In addition to this, 14 goats were also killed.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad this morning and a strong protest was lodged with him on these unprovoked attacks.

29 April Violation Protested

BK301018 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Text] Four Afghan aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace yesterday, infiltrating about 2 km in the Arandu area of Chitral. They fired 20 rockets within 1 km northeast of Arandu and 10 rockets within 1.5 km southeast of Arandu. No casualties or damage has been reported. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this morning, and a strong protest was lodged with him over this unprovoked attack.

Barikowt Region in Afghanistan Under 'Seige'

BK291026 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say fierce fighting is going on between the Soviet-Karmal forces and the Afghan mujahidin in Barikowt cantonment. The cantonment has been under the seige of the mujahidin for the last several months. The reports add that despite aerial bombings and reinforcement of Soviet-Karmal troops, all efforts to break the seige have met with failure. According to other reports, the mujahidin stormed Jalalabad airport and a residential (?block) in Nangarhar Province on the 24th of this month inflicting heavy losses of men and material on the enemy.

Afghan Mujahidin Operations in Kabul Reported

BK300812 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have started a series of operations against the Soviet-Karmal forces in Kabul. The mujahidin reportedly attacked a post of the Soviet-Karmal forces in Kabul recently, killing a number of soldiers. Another report says that a number of Afghans, who were not ready to attend the Grand Tribal Assembly, have been arrested.

DAWN on Initiative Needed To Solve Afghan Issue

GF291134 Karachi DAWN in English 22 Apr 85 p 5

[Editorial: "Need for Geneva IV"]

[Text] The report that the fourth round of Geneva talks on Afghanistan which was to be held next month is unlikely to take place does not augur well for the future of peace in South-West Asia. Although all parties involved in the Afghan situation have been reaffirming their commitment to a political settlement of the dispute, the peace process is often overshadowed by the changing course of the conflict itself and the dictates of international politics which have tended to influence the attitudes of all parties. As such, the Geneva rounds of indirect talks — the last of which was held in mid-1983 — and Mr Cordovez's shuttle diplomacy have so far failed to produce much progress.

In the first place, negotiations are held after such long intervals that by the time the next round comes along, a lot has already happened on the ground making it difficult for the parties and the mediator to pick up the thread of negotiations from where it had been left off the last time and then carry the process forward. Geneva-IV was to have been held in February when it was put off on Islamabad's request because of the holding of elections here. Now it is understood to have been indefinitely postponed on account of the Foreign Ministry's busy schedule in the coming weeks.

The events of the last few months have created new compulsions to carry in a concerted manner. As it is, a state of hostilities on its periphery is not in Pakistan's interest, more so when it involves the military presence of a superpower. The destabilising effect of the conflict in Afghanistan has deep implications for Paksitan's security and geostrategic position. Added to this is the economic, social and political burden of the three million refugees which this country has had to bear because of the turbulence in its neighbourhood. Obviously, a peaceful political settlement alone can ensure the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the honourable return of the refugees to their homeland. It is now plain that delay in getting the peace process moving has led to a worsening of the ground situation which only helps make the task of diplomacy more complex and a political settlement more elusive. For instance in recent weeks the fighting in Afghanistan has intensified, the cross-border raids have increased and the flow of arms and aid to the Afghan guerrillas is said to have gone up considerably.

Over and above this, the attitude of the two superpowers on the Afghan question is none too encouraging for a peaceful settlement. By choosing to administer a warning to Pakistan, the new leadership in the Kremlin has clearly indicated that it reads more into the Afghan situation than Islamabad does. Moreover, as the Afghan issue comes to be increasingly regarded by Moscow and Washington as an East-West problem, it becomes more unlikely that a settlement can be worked out in the regional context. This would eventually rule out a Pakistani initiative in the matter and

make the Geneva rounds and Mr Cordovez's shuttle diplomacy quite redundant.

It is important that the Pakistan Government makes an earnest effort to get the talks revived in May as originally scheduled. The need for this can hardly be overemphasised. The various factors such as the compulsions of international politics and the geo-political aspects of the conflict aside, the Government might take cognisance of the growing opinion in the country in favour of negotiations and a political settlement. In fact, attention must be drawn to the fact that a significant number of leaders of opinion, by no means radical or extremist in their outlook have called for direct talks with the Karmal regime. This underlines a growing trend of opinion in the country which favours a shift of focus from the battlefield to the negotiating table. The Government would do well to take note of this demand and make a fresh effort to initiate a meaningful negotiating process to make a political settlement in Afghanistan a realisable goal.

THE MUSLIM Comments on Recognizing Israel

GF291146 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Apr 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Recognizing Zionist Entity"]

[Text] According to a report of a recent interview of President Ziaul Haq with a Canadian publication, he is quoted as saying that he "recognised the right of Israel to exist". Additionally, the president is quoted as having stated in that interview that there was a "common element" between Pakistan and Israel in that these two countries "were created following enormous difficulties experienced between 1947 and 1984". While it is very difficult to ascertain whether the president has been quoted correctly in that particular interview, the views expressed therein certainly do not correspond with Pakistan's stated position on this issue.

Pakistan is bound in this regard by its own perspective based on principles as a Muslim state as well as resolutions of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). Additionally, Pakistan has always been in the vanguard supporting the rights of the Palestinians which have been usurped by the Zionists.

It would be an historical injustice and inaccuracy to draw a parallel between the events which led respectively to the creation of Pakistan and Israel. Any analogies in this context are merely superficial. Pakistan came into existence as part of a protracted struggle launched by the indigenous Muslim people of the sub-continent for their right of national self-determination — a right recognised and enshrined in the UN Charter. Conversely, Israel came into being as a result of the transplantation of a Western, European people into the Islamic heartland.

This transplantation was enforced courtesy the United States and the Soviet Union, both of whom had not lifted a finger to stop the crimes being committed during World War II by the Christians of Europe against the Jews of Europe. If any analogy is relevant, it is that of Israel with South Africa since both have a similar ethos in that they are basically colonial settler-states who have displaced an indigenous people of a different ethnic, racial and cultural background.

We would hope that any ambiguities which may exist in this regard will be cleared and there will be no attempt to create confusion on an issue on which Pakistan's stand has been firm, consistent and principled.

BANGLADESH

Delhi: Ershad's Army Position Extended 1 Year

BK291255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Text] The Bangladesh president, Lieutenant General Ershad, will continue to be the chief of the Army staff for 1 more year. The extension will allow him to remain the country's chief martial law administrator till the end of next year. General Ershad was to retire from the Army's top post in December this year.

SRI LANKA

Hotel Suffers Minor Damage in Colombo Explosion

BK300213 Colombo Overseas Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Text] A bomb exploded between the Army headquarters and the (Golfis) ground in Colombo last night. According to the Ministry of National Security, the explosion caused minor damage to the Taj Hotel but nobody was injured. The explosion occurred when, after receiving a tip-off, the Army bomb-disposal squad was approaching the site where the bomb was planted. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali disclosed this to the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation this morning.

On Friday [26 April], the minister informed the parliament that he had received information about a plan to cause explosions by May Day. He advised the people to remain vigilant.

AFP Report

HK300634 Hong Kong AFP in English 0554 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Text] Colombo, April 30 (AFP) — Tamil separatists blasted an army headquarters building in Colombo and ambushed a Sri Lankan Army convoy in Jaffna Peninsula yesterday, leaving 17 people dead, the national security minister said today. Twenty one security personnel and 40 militants have died in Tamil separatist attacks in the past 16 days by the official count.

The minister, Lalith Athulathmudali, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that he had warned parliament that Tamil separatists, who normally operate in the north and east, were expected to plant bombs in Colombo this week to create panic in the city.

The minister said that intelligence reports indicated that the militants may have targeted tomorrow in particular because Sri Lanka's political parties would be celebrating Labour Day with public rallies and musical pageants. He said that processions have been banned outside Colombo in a bid to ward off potential violence. Metropolitan police said security forces in the city were on full alert.

The bomb blast last night damaged the accounts and legal office at Army headquarters and knocked out several windows of a nearby hotel.

Mr. Athulathmudali said that soldiers had discovered a parcel containing the bomb by the outer wall of the headquarters and a special Army unit was on its way to defuse the explosive when it went off. There were no casualties.

He said that in Jaffna militants had ambushed an Army convoy, killing two soldiers and wounding four others.

One of the vehicles was damaged by an exploding landmine, and troops and militants then exchanged fire, leaving 15 militants and two troops dead and one soldier wounded, he said.

The attack occurred at Navatkuly Village and is believed to have been the work of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, he said. The bomb in Colombo is believed to have been planted by the Eelam revolutionary organisation, the minister said.

Both of these groups are militant organizations fighting for a separate state for the nation's minority Tamils in the north and east.

National television last night urged citizens to be on guard for suspicious looking parcels.

15 Tamils Killed, Injured in Clash Near Jaffna

BK300308 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 15 Tamil militants are reported killed or injured in a clash with security forces near Jaffna yesterday. The militants also ambushed an Army convoy in which three soldiers were killed and three others injured.

In Colombo, a time bomb exploded outside the headquarters of the Sri Lankan Army. An agency report quoting officials says that no one was injured.

Khomeyni Receives Khamene'i, SAIRI Spokesman

LD301115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Text] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, met with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and commander in chief, this morning and briefed him on the country's current and military matters. In another meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqer Hakim, the spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), was received by the imam of the ummah today.

Khamene'i Meets Sierra Leone Foreign Minister

LD291823 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA — Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i and the visiting foreign minister of Sierra Leone, Sheka Kanu, met today and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Kanu said his government was happy to have strong and friendly ties with the Islamic Republic because of its support for the oppressed nations, such as for the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO). The president said the Islamic Republic acknowledged the just struggle of the South African and Namibian peoples.

He said the Zionist influence in Africa was a danger facing the continent. The Zionist and South African regimes are both racist and are supported by the same international circles, he added.

Difficulties facing the African nations date back to the colonial days and can be solved through united efforts of the Africans, the president said.

Khamene'i said the Islamic Republic was sensitive to African issues and shared the suffering of its people.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Media Officials

LD271812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Text] The heads and officials responsible for planning in the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, taking part in a planning and production seminar, met Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. In a speech during the meeting, the Majlis speaker stressed the variety of television programs, planning for the coming years, and the need to win the confidence of the people. He said: Thanks to the information I obtained on the state of the programs and the manner in which the organization works during the period I was on the supervisory council I am somewhat aware of your difficulties, bottlenecks, and obstacles to your work. On the whole, thanks to the rich background at your disposal, despite the existence of difficulties, you could make an excellent job of drawing on these backgrounds and do some new work in the arena of modern propaganda.

Referring to the new chapter emerging in the world with the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the Majlis speaker said: We know that there is no historical precedent for such special circumstances. The propaganda technique used at the dawn of Islam cannot become a model for the problems and issues that the Voice and Vision faces and for the propaganda of today. Therefore, you lack experience and rich archives and initiative left behind by others. For this reason our hands are empty and this is a fact the people should realize.

He added: Since the day the Voice and Vision showed itself in the world it has devoted a large percentage of its time to the people, as I know, just as the European countries, the USSR, the United States, China and others do. Propaganda organizations sometimes have an important mission within a special framework and, on the other hand, at times their hands are open and they do not have such a mission. They have done everything to create something new and present the same to the people in order to occupy and amuse the people and make themselves attractive; and in this task they have also been successful. They might show a 2-hour film to which the eyes of the people would be rivetted and it could have nothing in its favor but escapism and yet would please the viewer. This sort of thing constitutes a missionless task.

Another type of work is when the official responsible for organization wishes to occupy the people's time by giving them something that falls within a definite framework and path and is connected with its mission. Undoubtedly the first choice, despite its lack of mission and its possession of precedent, is easier to carry out. In view of the present situation this is an easy task and you should often carry this out in your programs.

This is because when our revolution became victorious we had not prepared ourselves for its programs in advance. Of course there were certain manpower resources for carrying out technical tasks and there were also immaculate people to do cultural work, but they had not been trained for this task and for the mission created for them by the revolution. They had not even studied such a problem as the language of announcing, together with the literature needed by this revolution. Therefore, in the expressions heard by the people from the Voice and Vision 7 years ago and the expressions they must be hearing today after the revolution, including names, literary sentences, or historical issues and a great many idioms, everything is new and requires a special training course.

Emphasizing the fact that a Muslim artist should work in accordance with an Islamic culture, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The training of forces compatible with the culture, the needs, and goals of the revolution requires a certian course and a length of time. A good artist, no matter how sincere or how sympathetic to the revolution he might be, when his education course, training and previous work are channelled in a different direction, in order to become acquainted with the existing direction and method and make his creativity compatible with the existing circumstances and the feelings and sympathies of this people, he needs a certain training course. However, those whose training has not been in this direction need more time. Of course one cannot satisfy all the people, but one can satisfy those who are loyal to the revolution, the strength of which depends on them and the foundations of which rest on their shoulders and who give up their property, lives and children and, despite the bombings, come along and demonstrate the strength of our society. These people's propensities are clear-cut and known.

The majority in our society are against immoral scenes. Therefore, in order to safeguard the wishes of the majority and avoid offending them we should enter the arena taking into consideration their culture and intellectual foundations.

Continuing his speech, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the bad things taught by television programs and said: Because of the growth it has attained, our society is normally not in favor of ineffectual scenes devoid of content. For instance, a program lasting several hours on such and such a European football team might find supporters among a number of young people who are not even bad people. However, the majority in our society who carried out the revolution and are on the side of the revolution — if they did not watch that they would not complain and would not miss anything.

The Majlis speaker added: You should make our society understand that your task is difficult. If society were convinced, your task would become so important in its eyes that even the little steps you are taking would appear big in its eyes and it would also forgive your shortcomings. We have many rich backgrounds in our society. In a country such as ours, which has carried out a revolution and whose people are Muslims, there are many beautiful things. We speakers can only convey a few of these beautiful things. The speaking tongue is not as expressive as the language of films and pictures. With the things you and the producer may wish to incorporate into the scenes you could resort to a great many things from the scenes of the revolution and from the values buried in virtuous men throughout the history of virtue. The only condition is that you should have people with aptitude, sympathy and artistry. But the planners specify the line and entrust the path to the hands of such people.

In another part of his speech, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: There are those who, because they are still unacquainted with the language of religious culture and what is currently ruling the revolution, do not possess the boldness and courage to speak up. They are afraid of making mistakes and of what they might say not being correct. A great many of these people are willing to work on such and such a subject, but they are not acquainted with these problems. Let the planners make the problems clear and let them open certain portals for these people whereby our need for literate men who enjoy the confidence of the people can be met and so that these people complement the artists and so that the arists can work boldly. The organization should secure this and attract strong and reliable individuals and then establish contacts with them.

Another matter you sorely need to address is winning the people's confidence. If on the whole you wish your programs to be effective among the people so that the people can really learn, they should have confidence in you and in your words. You should rely on veracity and truth in a manner compatible with facts. This is precisely the fundamental wealth of the organization. You should win, in effect, the hearts and confidence of the people. One extremely important factor in your programs is that the people should not feel any imposition. We should not attempt to make the people understand the realties by force of propaganda.

Expounding the mission of propaganda and its interpretation in multifarious societies, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council said: Just a few days ago I saw that one of the foreign political research workers had written an analysis for the self-same media which are normally inimical to us about the Iran-Iraq war. He says: The policy of the Iraqis is usually to portray themselves as victorious and successful and give their people figures about their victories even while they are fleeing from Khorramshahr or the vicinity of Dezful and being taken prisoner. However, the Iranians discuss the problems of the war with their people and inform them of the enemy's wicked deeds. This investigator, because of his twisted political mind, thinks that we tell of Saddam's wicked deeds in order to motivate our people so that they will fight better. Thanks to his twisted political mind he still cannot accept that we wish to tell the people the truth and reflect the facts, since for such people it is unacceptable that a country at war should relate the facts.

For instance, we provide statistics that a missile hit Dezful and Dezful is a small town about which the people of other cities know nothing. But we announce that a missile hit Dezful and in the meantime destroyed 300 houses and while 500 were injured, 100 odd people were also martyred and later in the hospital another two joined the ranks of the martyrs. In the history of its wars, the world has never been accustomed to dealing with problems in this manner. You can see, however, we hit Baghdad with nine missiles but not a single reliable report was announced to the world throughout that time. The only thing they did was to take and disseminate a film of the Al-Rafidayn Bank the top floors of which could be filmed even from a distance. But here, when a bomb hits our treasury, the AFP correspondent goes there, has an interview with the people and the next day a film is carried by their television. [as heard] Now I am not discussing how correct this matter is. Rather, what I am saying is that relying on facts brings about a situation whereby even when a biased political individual embarks on his analysis at long last he is forced to admit the truth of our work.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly then said: About the person of the imam, recently they have kept saying that the imam is ill. Whenever the imam takes a rest for 2 days they spread a report and so many lies are told, so many lies that finally one skillful U.S. writer was forced to write an article against the CIA saying that these people have given us false information and misled us. They have regularly told us lies, but we saw that he was daily becoming healthier and came and spoke to the people. All in all these lies undermine their own society and ideas. Therefore, winning the people's confidence is an extremely important issue and planners should guide the workers, executives and program organizers and portray the good name of this organization in a favorable light to the people. If today we lack [word indistinct] in the future the range of work toward our aims in society will be much greater.

Concluding his speech Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: At present you cannot satisfy that segment enamored of the West. Now that we cannot satisfy them what use are they to us when they sit by the television set and switch it off the moment the news begins? I do not say you should forget them. Provide them with other programs so that they can watch them, but they should not be attracted at the cost of offending the owners of the revolution. Therefore, you should move toward the real wish of the people which is Islam, public decency, morals, the history of Islam, and

the war and revolution; and these are the issues pursued by the people.

Majlis Approves Presidential Election, Trade Bills

LD281302 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Apr 85

[Text] In today's open Majlis session, generalities concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran's presidential election bill and the Guardian Council's supervision of it were approved in the first round; and seven articles and notes of the bill on export and import regulations for the year 1364 [21 March 1985 to 21 March 1986] were approved in the second round.

Montazeri Praises Armed Forces, Guards Corps

LD271744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Text] On the occasion of the auspicious birthday of the lord of the martyrs, Aba 'Abdallah al-Hoseyn, peace be upon him, and on the occasion of Guards Day and Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran Week, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri received a large group of Army personnel, personnel of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the oppressed mobilization, the gendarmerie, and the police.

In the course of this meeting, while congratulating the blessed birthday of Imam Hoseyn and praising Armed Forces Week and Guards Day, his eminence analyzed the views of Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him, about the Armed Forces. He said: In his famous letter to Malik Ashtar, one of Imam 'Ali's military commanders, which is the most important letter in Nahj al-Balaghah, Imam 'Ali's book, Imam 'Ali referred to the Armed Forces as the strong fortress of the nation, the honor of the Islamic government, the pride and glory of the religion, and the best method of protecting people's security.

Referring to the international situation of the Islamic Revolution and to the sensitivity of the superpowers, on the one hand, and to the oppressed and meek nation, on the other hand, his eminence said: Today the Islamic Revolution has become a power in the world of which all colonial powers take account; and all their plots and conspiracies and commotions are for the purpose of weakening and destroying this great power, which is raised in the world in the name of Islam and religion.

His eminence reiterated: It is appropriate for us to pay greater attention to the global situation of Islam and to the revolution in order to understand the importance of our nation's achievement; and we should prepare ourselves to put up with difficulties and make sacrifices to safeguard this great revolution.

In connection with the conspiracies hatched by enemies of the revolution against the Armed Forces, his eminence pointed out: the minigroups, and particularly the hypocrites, began the rumor about the dissolution of the Armed Forces during the early days of the revolution, and their main objective was to weaken the morale of the committed and selfless personnel of the Armed Forces. It was over this low morale of the Armed Forces that Saddam's army had the temerity to launch an attack on our country and occupy many of our border towns; and now that our Armed Forces are powerful and are creating epics on battlefronts we see that the sharp edge of the foreign radio propaganda is directed toward them and particularly toward the Guards Corps and the mobilization.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri emphasized: People's expectations from the Armed Forces are high. For instance, in dealing with internal problems, where the main role is played by the police, by the Guards Corps, and by the committees, the issue is very sensitive. For example, dealing with offenders and accused individuals from any group is a delicate matter and the security forces must avoid revengeful attitudes and short tempers. When they go to arrest a person they should not bother his wife and children or relatives under any circumstances. Such approaches will leave negative marks in the minds of relatives of an accused person.

About coordination among the Armed Forces and particularly about the defense of the country on the battlefronts, his eminence said: When we are working for the sake of God, what difference does it make whether an achievement is attributed to the Guards Corps, the Army, or to the mobilization forces. Everyone's aim is to serve Islam and the country and to bring satisfaction to Almighty God. A person who purely intends to serve God with his work will be embarrassed to receive gratitude and praise. Based on this principle, all dear brothers of the Armed Forces and security officials must take care to preserve their coordination, unity of word, and sincerety, the same as before. They should strive to improve the level of the necessary military training in garrisons and on battlefronts. They should not be contented with slogans alone. The great prophet of Islam, in his wars, used to pay full attention to to his forces' military formation and combat training before relying on prayers and the hidden divine forces.

Envoy to Bangladesh Meets With UN Commissioner

LD291833 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Text] Dhaka, April 29, IRNA — Iran ambassador to Bangladesh, Mohammad Mehdi Akhund-Zadeh, met with Abu Syed Chowdhury, the head of the U.N. Commission for Human Rights, Sunday.

Referring to Iraq's crimes, and its deployment of chemical weapons, Akhund-Zadeh said Iraq in violation of all Islamic, humanitarian and international laws, had imposed the war on Iran.

He informed Chowdhury of Iran's unilateral initiative to repatriate Iraqi disabled.

In response, the head of the U.N. Human Rights Commission said that the U.N. is under superpowers' influence, especially the United States.

Chowdhury termed Iraq's use of chemical weapons as a savage act and said that it cannot be justified under any circumstances.

Labor Official on Farm Worker Wage Increase

GF280812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Apr 85

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, in an interview the deputy minister for labor and social affairs spoke about minimum wages for agricultural workers and about their benefits and assistance for housing and food. The spokesman said that in order to prevent migration from the rural areas to the cities under the law approved by the Cabinet, compensation for redundant farm workers who draw wages up to 30,000 rials a month has been fixed at 40 days wages for every year served. For the workers whose monthly wages are more than 30,000 rials, it has been fixed at equal to wages drawn during the last 25 days of every year served.

The deputy minister discussed wage increases and the minimum annual wage set for farm workers. He said that in the year 1363 [21 March 1984 to 20 March 1985] the Supreme Council for Agriculture for the first time during its term had fixed a minimum wage for farm workers equal to that of industrial workers and all other labor. This fact was welcomed by most of the farm workers.

Another step taken by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and approved by the Supreme Council for Agriculture are the rules for technical safety and health matters in agriculture which deals with (?crop health) and fighting plant diseases.

On housing and food aid to farm workers, the official said that the aid now received for housing and food is equal to that received by industrial workers as prescribed by the Supreme Labor Council for such workers. This amount, from the beginning of the year 1364 [21 March 1985], is being given to farm workers through the farm units. According to this, food aid worth 45,000 rials per month and housing aid worth 50,000 rials per month is given.

While referring to the latest circular issued by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the latest decisions made by the Supreme Council for Agriculture regarding minimum annual wage increases for farm workers, the deputy minister said that the minimum daily wage for farm workers effective 21 March 1985 throughout the country has been fixed at 720 rials, and from that date onward farm workers will get an additional (?5) rials daily in all wage brackets.

Afghan Mujahidin Kill 7 Government 'Officials'

LD291826 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Text] New Delhi, April 29, IRNA — Seven officials of the Soviet-backed regime in Afghanistan were killed in an attack against a security post in Kabul by Afghan mujahidin, sources disclosed here.

Afghan mujahidin also downed two new modern helicopters in the Salang region. The copters were on their way from the Soviet Union to Kabul. The attacks were carried out on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the April 27 Soviet-backed coup.

Meanwhile sources also said that two Afghan Air Force fighter planes crashed during an exercise over Kabul. The planes were to attend the April 27 parde. One pilot was killed.

Flights Resume After ICAO Condemns Iraqi Threats

LD291614 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA — Iran has resumed all its international flights and has called on foreign airlines to resume their flights to Iran as the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) implicitly condemned Iraq for threatening to attack civilian planes over Iran.

The head of Iran's civil aviation organisation, Hasan Shafti, said all Iran-Air international flights had resumed and that one foreign airline, Swissair, operated flights to Iran's southern port of Bandar Abbas. Domestic flights were also being carried out except to cities close to the war zone in the west.

Shafti said ICAO's 33-member council held an extraordinary meeting to consider a protest by Iran over Iraqi threats to attack passenger planes over Iranian airspace.

The council issued a resolution supporting Iran's grievances and called for the observance of international laws aimed at ensuring safe and orderly activities of civil aviation, Shafti said. He said the Islamic Republic felt the resolution fell short of safeguarding civil aviation, and demanded further action by ICAO.

According to Shafti, the Iraqi representative in the meeting denied his government had made any threats and had claimed Iraqi announcements warning flights over Iranian airspace amounted to "a simple note".

The Iranian delegation told the council that its "silence on Iraqi threats would contradict the very purpose of the organisation".

Joint Staff Command Issues Communique 29 April

LD291659 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA — The military communique published today said 25 Iraqi soldiers had been killed or wounded in artillery battles between the Islamic forces and the Iraqi troops in the northern fronts on Sunday.

The communique published by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces said three enemy vehicles and four artillery emplacements of the enemy had been heavily pounded in the same fronts. As artillery duels continued in the central fronts, the Iranian forces maintained their positions and inflicted damages on enemy troops.

Iran's Muslim combatants detected enemy patrol units at 19.20 (15.50 GMT) and again at 22.30 (19.00 GMT) Saturday in the Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar fronts and repelled them from the area, inflicting casualties and material damages. An enemy engineering unit was forced to flee as it attempted to fortify positions in the Sumar front.

In the southern fronts, Iran's Muslim forces maintained their positions while checking patrol operations of the enemy and pounding their infiltration routes.

In Hoseyniyeh, one armoured unit of the Iraqi troops which was about to attack the Iranian positions was pounded and immobilized by Iran's artillery units.

Spokesman 'Strongly Denied' Shelling Mandali
LD300726 Tehran IRNA in English 0722 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters Tuesday strongly denied Iraq's allegations on the shelling of the city of Mandali and the village of Biyarah by Iran. The spokesman, in a contact with IRNA, added that such fabrications were mere lies.

Iraq on Monday claimed that Mandali and Biyarah were under heavy fire of Iranian artillery.

Reporters Allowed To Interview Iraqi POW's
LD300854 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA — The War Information Headquarters Tuesday announced that domestic and foreign reporters can visit and interview with young Iraqi POW's, captivated during Badr Operation, stationed in Tehran's southern Mehrabad POW's camp at 10:00 hours tomorrow, Wednesday.

Amal Organization Attack on Baghdad Club Kills 50
LD291934 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Pr., April 29, IRNA — A spokesman for the Islamic Amal (Struggle) organization of Iraq said today its combatants last month attacked a centre frequented by American and French nationals in Baghdad.

The attack took place in Soqolhor, in Baghdad's Assa'dun District, using hand grendades. Fire raged for about four hours in the scene of the attack, which sold American-made goods.

Also in Forsiyah of Helmansur and in front of the officers club in Hafez ol-Qazi area of Baghdad last month, Muslim revolutionaries blasted at least 15 parked cars belonging to Iraqi officers, killing at least 50 of them as they walked to their cars outside the club. The club is famous for its unchaste environment.

Iraqi Mojahedin are determined to continue repeating similar operations to precipitate the downfall of the Iraqi regime, the Amal spokesman said.

Iraqi Residents Asked To Report for Service
LD291234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Excerpts] The headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps called on Iraqis residing in Iran, who wish to receive military training, to report to named centers in the various parts of the country. As for those Iraqis who have volunteered to go to the warfronts of good against evil, they are asked to report before 5 May to the centers already announced.

Western Media 'Misrepresenting' Events in Lebanon
LD281811 Tehran IRNA in English 1754 GMT 28 Apr 85

[Text] Tehran, April 28, IRNA — During the past few days the imperialistic news media of the world had as though launched out a campaign for recreating a war reminiscent of the crusaders' wars for the mass killing of Muslim people in Lebanon. The campaign is marked at its outset by misrepresenting facts about Lebanon and creating doubts among the world people about the identity of the Islamic movement in that country. The West is exploiting its entire media resources with the idea of suggesting to the less knowledgeable people that Muslims are inherently riotous and that they are a threat to peace and stability.

Western radio stations, too, have recently focused on recent clashes between Muslims and the Phalangists near Sidon, hoping to exploit the developments as a means for disreputing the country's Muslim people and prepare a political atmosphere throughout the world for legitimizing a planned mass killing of the Muslim people in that country. Among the foreign radio stations striving to manipulate the world public opinion against Lebanon's Muslim people the BBC has obviously excelled its rivals.

In a report from Lebanon this week the BBC was unmistakably biased in its outlook for tending to portray Muslims in the country as a group of anarchists and law-breakers. The BBC reporter as though was siding sympathetically with the Christian community in the country and described the situation there such as to imply that because of hostilities by Muslims the Christians in Lebanon are on the verge of destruction as a community of people.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, too, said in a report from Lebanon Saturday that Muslim guerrillas had occupied Christian villages in Lebanon and ransacked, looted, and set on fire the houses of Christians in the villages.

On the other side of the scene, however, as Zionist-inspired radio stations and print media waged a propaganda war against the Muslims of Lebanon, Zionist troops have raided villages in Lebanon with the aid of Katayeb's Phalanges martyring and wounding thousands of Muslims the incidents apparently passing unobserved by the scrupulous foreign media. The Saturday reports of foreign reporters in Lebanon about the Zionists' raids into Muslim-populated villages in Sur and Hasabiyah were seemingly far from being impartial.

The influential international magnates ruling in the news market have never portrayed an impartial picture of the crimes perpetrated by the Zionist troops and the Phalanges in Lebanon. On the contrary as the Zionists are trying to make good their retreat the magnates of the Western media are waging a battle for smearing both the Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims in that country.

On Saturday Muslims were warmly received by people in 14 villages in the wake of the termination of a control on them by Katayeb's militia, though the incident went totally unmentioned by the so-called reputable news agencies of the world. Could this deliberate omission by the international media of a meaningful incident in that country be safely overlooked as lacking any implication? And would the permanent black-out on the wires of the international news media of such incidents be interpreted as mere negligence on the part of the media? The answer is a definite no.

The Muslim people of Lebanon have seen their motherland occupied for 34 months now, a period marked by all manners of tyranny upon them, and equally marked by an unmitigated determination to fight on with the army of invasion for the sake of peace and freedom.

As all this has been happening Ketayeb's militia troops have been the Zionists' principal accomplice and their closest ally. The Phalanges once engaged in a mass killing of Muslims mainly women and small children and elderly people in Sabra and Shatila without the bloodshed getting the attention it reasonably deserved on the news telexes of the so-called independent news agencies of the world. And now the circumstances apparently unfavourable to the West had as though impelled the news agency magnates of the world to lend a halpful hand to Washington for suppressing the news of factual incidents in Lebanon and create a global attitude for later justifying or at least ignoring a planned massacre of Muslims in Lebanon.

The Western propaganda may possibly impress or intimidate some people here and there but not the freedom lovers and strugglers. The Western media may perhaps manage to manipulate the public opinion but sooner or later it will lose credibility. Whether the Muslim people of Lebanon are after reviving a war with the Christians or whether the Christians need to heed such provocative alerts must be judged solely by the true Muslims and true Christians rather than by a media which have long since been inspired by the ruling powers.